Amendments to the Claims:
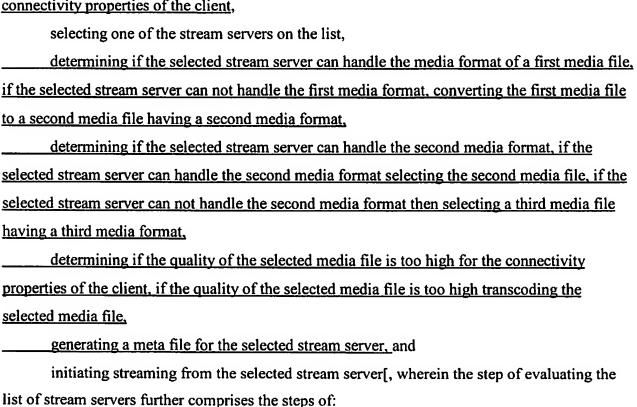
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended)   A method for enhancing streaming operation in a distributed communication system providing communication links between a plurality of stream servers, a client machine requesting a particular media file, and a stream server selection unit, comprising the steps of:

retrieving a list of stream servers from an Universal Description, Discovery, and Integration (UDDI) directory service,

evaluating the list of stream servers by retrieving and considering the stream server's operating parameters, retrieving and considering the format(s) in which the media file is presented, retrieving and considering preferences from the client, retrieving and considering the connectivity properties of the client,

selecting one of the stream servers on the list,

determining if the selected stream server can handle the media format of a first media file, if the selected stream server can not handle the first media format, converting the first media file to a second media file having a second media format,

determining if the selected stream server can handle the second media format, if the selected stream server can handle the second media format selecting the second media file, if the selected stream server can not handle the second media format then selecting a third media file having a third media format,

determining if the quality of the selected media file is too high for the connectivity properties of the client, if the quality of the selected media file is too high transcoding the selected media file,

generating a meta file for the selected stream server, and

initiating streaming from the selected stream server[, wherein the step of evaluating the list of stream servers further comprises the steps of:

retrieving and considering the stream server's capabilities,

retrieving and considering the format(s) in which the media file is presented, and

retrieving and considering preferences from the client].

2. (Previously Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of retrieving and considering the stream server's capabilities further comprises the step of determining operating parameters of each stream server on the list of stream servers, wherein the operating parameters are formed by information about the supported media formats of the stream servers.

4. (Original)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of evaluating the list of stream servers further includes the step of retrieving and considering the player availability.

5. (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of retrieving and considering preferences from the client further comprises the steps of retrieving and considering a list of all available media players at the client, and retrieving and considering a preferred media player.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of evaluating the list of stream servers further includes the step of weighting one or more of the considered parameters.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original)   The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of determining whether or not the format of the media has changed.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended)   A method for enhancing streaming operation in a distributed

communication system providing communication links between a plurality of stream servers, a client machine requesting a particular media file, and a stream server selection unit, comprising the steps of:

retrieving a list of stream servers from an Universal Description, Discovery, and Integration (UDDI) directory service,

evaluating the list of stream servers,

selecting a stream server on the list,

detecting the data transfer rate between the client machine and the distributed communication system,

requesting the streaming of a media file in a first media file format,

intercepting [a] the request for streaming [a] the media file if the stream server can not handle the first media file format [of the requested streaming media file],

[modifying the streaming request by appending preference information for streaming of the requested media file]

requesting the streaming of the media file in a second media file format, and

sending the [modified] streaming request of the media file in a second media file format to the stream server selection unit.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, further comprising the initial step of detecting the capabilities of the client machine.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of retrieving preferences predetermined by the user of the client machine.

14. (Original) A device for enhancing streaming operation in a distributed communication system providing communication links between a plurality of stream servers, a client machine requesting a particular media file, and a stream server selection unit, the device being configured to perform a method according to claim 1.

15. (Original) A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium, comprising

computer readable program means for causing a computer to perform a method according to claim 1.